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The Chronicle and Directory is the only publication of its kind for China and Japan, and it will be found invaluable in all Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

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THE Underigned, having become LESSOR of the "HONGKONG FREE PRESS" and the BUSINESS connected therewith, will conduct the same on his own account from this date.

R. CHATFIELD WILCOX.

Daily Press Office, Hongkong, 1st January, 1878.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO.

FAMILY AND DISPENSARY CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS.

PREPARATIONS.

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS.

DRUGGISTS' SUPPLIERS.

And

DEBATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED.

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THE DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, MAY 2nd, 1878.

The discussion on prison discipline at the Legislative Council on Monday opens up two or three questions of very great importance which call for serious consideration. We will take them in their order. The first deals with the advisability of employing prisoners on useful industrial hard labour.

On this point we have always held very decided opinions. It seems to us monstrous that criminals should be such a burden to the community as they are allowed to be in many of the United Kingdom. It is not sufficient, apparently, that their confinement and punishment should entail vast expenditure in large, substantial, and costly edifices, the retention of a small army of gendarmes and other officials, but they have actually to be fed at the expense of the ratepayers. They are well able to do hard labour, and there ought to be no difficulty in making their work remunerative. Surely prisoners can be more profitably engaged than in turning the crank, carrying shot to and fro, picking calum, or breaking soft stone, which costs as much for removal as it would to break it outside. Various objections have, we know, been raised against giving prisoners useful employment. It has been urged that prison productions are thus brought into competition with honest labour outside, to the detriment of the latter. It is also said that this emulation engendered among the workmen in the goal and the consciousness of being usefully engaged takes the sting out of the punishment of convicts. But these objections, though they may have some force in England, would have less here. As the Hon. P. EYRE pointed out, it would be a real and intense mortification to a Chinaman in prison to know that he would not reap the fruits of his labour, but that they would go toward the defrayal of the cost of his maintenance. This work should at the same time, however, be of a laborious character and not calculated to engage the interest of the prisoner. This would doubtless be rather difficult to provide inside the walls of the goal, but we believe it could be done.

It would, of course, be a simple matter, comparatively speaking, to find work for the convicts outside the limits of the Gaol. The reconstruction of the Praya, the construction of the contemplated harbor of refuge, and the quarrying of granite would afford them employment for some time to come. We would strongly deprecate, however, their being engaged in public places, where there would be the slightest chance of any communication with their friends or acquaintances. Moreover, the spectacle of a gang of ruffians working in chains is not altogether an edifying sight for the rising race, and it would be better, on all accounts, that they should be employed as little in public view as possible. It would be necessary also that they should, while working, be under the strictest supervision, so that there could not be a chance of their wandering. Chinese convicts have given plenty of proof in past times that they will run very great risks to regain their liberty, and the more desperate characters might, if the supervision were to be for a moment relaxed, turn upon the warders with their tools and possibly overpower them. The guards would be useless. There seemed to be a consensus of opinion among the members of the Council on the expediency of giving the convicts labour on the public works of the Colony, and we believe that it would be advantageous by reducing the cost of the goal.

The suggestion of His Excellency the Governor, which we notice was endorsed by the Hon. P. EYRE, that industrious and well-conducted prisoners should have a small proportion of their earnings put by from week to week and handed to them on leaving goal, is an excellent one, and will commend itself to every philanthropic mind. The object of punishment should at the same time be deterrent and reformatory. It is not desirable that men should be thrust out of prison at the expiration of their sentence moneyless and characterless, unable to obtain employment, and consequently soon compelled, "like the sow that was washed," to return to their wallowing in the mire. There are some prisoners of whose reformation little hope can be entertained, but on the other hand there are numbers who, having been guilty of one lapse are only too glad to return to honest labour. To such the possession of a small sum of money on leaving prison would prove a great assistance, and would enable them to maintain themselves.

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LATEST TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS TELEGRAMS. SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."

[BY SOUTHERN ROUTE.]

LONDON, 24th April.

THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA.

The negotiations for peace still actively continue.

A Volunteer Army for active service is being organized; 8,000 men have enrolled themselves already.

SWIMMING AT THE VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

The bathing season was formally opened yesterday afternoon by a few races at the bath. The events numbered six, and included long and short races, headers from the spring board and diving stage, and a tug-of-war. Travellers and Cope divided the honours for the headers, and both showed remarkably good diving. Travellers was first in the two short races, one of which was a handicap, in which he was scotch. His swimming in this race was excellent. In the long race, last year's winner, Cope, easily disposed of the only one of the competitors who stayed the distance. The tug-of-war was an impromptu affair, and, as usual, caused much amusement. The judges were Mr. Hynde, Dr. Clouth, and Lieut. Greer, 74th.

SHORTEST TWO LENGTHS OF THE BATH.

This was contested by four competitors—Travellers, Dunning, Cope, and Cavendish. The last named did not come in at the finish. Travellers won easily; close races between second and third. Time, 1 min. 10 sec.

LONG RACE—TWO LENGTHS OF THE BATH.

This was contested by only two competitors, Travellers and Cope. Each gentleman had three trials, and both made very pretty dives.

TRAVELLERS WON EASILY.

Time, 1 min. 10 sec.

HEADERS FROM DIVING STAGE.

This was contested by only two competitors, Travellers and Cope. Each gentleman had three trials, and both made very pretty dives.

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EXTRACTS.

A SUMMER'S GROWTH.

Fair was the flower which professed now its fruit—
The bud began to swell, and stretch a soft glow—
And tenderly the wind of summer May
To cheer it and give it strength and might
As through its veins the life began to show,
And it put on each day, more brightly now,
And all the foliage, as it grew,
Because the summer was then about its foot,
But now one fruit hangs well within our reach,
And this, indeed, is time for gathering,
To bath the bloom of summer, and to catch
The dawn which hath that any man could sing,
Yet who taste it whisper, such to each,
"Not sweet but very bitter is this thing!"

LOUIS CHANDLER MORRISON.

HAYDEN IN ENGLAND.

A captain in the navy called on Hayden one morning. "Mr. Hayden, I presume." "Yes, sir." "Are you willing to compose me a march for the troops I have on board? I will give you thirty guineas; but I must have it done by the 1st of June." "I will do it," said Hayden, and he took the money. As soon as the captain was gone, he opened his portfolio and in a quarter of an hour the march was finished. Feeling some scruples at gaining so easily what appeared to him a very large sum, he wrote two other marches, intending first to give the captain the choice of them, and then to make him a present of the other two, as a return for his liberality. Early on the following morning the captain arrived. "Well, what's your march?" "Here it is." "Will you play it on the piano?" Hayden played it. The captain, without saying a word, contented the thirty guineas, and the instrument, and the march, and walked away. Hayden ran after him to stop him.

"I have written two others, which are better. Hear them and then make your choice."

"I like the first very well, and that is sufficient."

"But hear them."

The captain marched out of the house, and would hear nothing. Hayden pursued him, crying out, "I make you a present of them." The captain, quickening his pace, replied, "I won't leave them."

"But, at least, hear them."

"No, not for the whole navy."

Hayden, piqued, suddenly hastened to the dock, and inquired that ship was on the point of sailing for the Indies, and the name of the commander. He then rolled up the two marches, inclosed a polite note, and sent the parcel on board to the captain. The obstinate fellow, suspecting that the musician was in pursuit of him, would not even look at the note, but sent it back. Hayden took the marches into a thousand pieces, and never forgot the captain as long as he lived.

TURKISH SAYINGS.

Kismet kismet olahak! (Fate must be presently fulfilled.) "Esmem bilmem!" (The destiny of life must be accomplished.) In other words, "You cannot change the coming future any more than you can undo the neatly packed past. This false axiom is unreluctantly accepted by the Turk, and is the one *par excellence* held in all simplicity and sincerity by every individual man, woman, and child in the nation without exception."

"Yasni!" (It is written.) "Is it ordered for us?" is an insistent and confession natural to a people such as one of whom knows what is to befall him, and the position of the present and the future are the same in the case of a man, in the circling of the dependent before his nation, of the Effendi or Bey before his Pasha—of the Pasha before the high Government officials, or before the Grand Vizier, or of the *Sadr-ush-Shura* before the Pasha, and the Sultan himself? He is supposed to live in utter helplessness before an absolute Will, or a vague Fate, and his personality is as a bubble before the wind.

"Padihal buhak den mi?" (Is not the Sultan great?) "Anan, Allah Sadr-ush-Shura diler buhak den mi?" (If the Sultan will, he can do anything.) Such are the terms in which the Turk will lead one to conceive something of the greatness of their ruler, yet of even his subjection to a higher will. It is a hint to see as they see, and is intended to induce an involved mental process resulting in a conviction that the Padihal has boundless power, so much so that anything can be done, the will of the absolute ruler of Turkey—Bagravia.

THE DOCTRINE OF CHANCES.

It is an indubitable result of the theory of probabilities that every gambler, if he continues long enough, must ultimately be ruined. Suppose he tries the martingale, which some believe infallible, and which is as I informed, discovered in the gambling-houses. In this method of playing he first bets \$1. If he loses it, he bets \$2; if he loses that, he bets \$4; if he loses that, he bets \$8; if he loses that, he bets \$16; if he loses that, he bets \$32; if he loses that, he bets \$64; if he loses that, he bets \$128; if he loses that, he bets \$256; if he loses that, he bets \$512; if he loses that, he bets \$1024; if he loses that, he bets \$2048; if he loses that, he bets \$4096; if he loses that, he bets \$8192; if he loses that, he bets \$16384; if he loses that, he bets \$32768; if he loses that, he bets \$65536; if he loses that, he bets \$131072; if he loses that, he bets \$262144; if he loses that, he bets \$524288; if he loses that, he bets \$1048576; if he loses that, he bets \$2097152; if he loses that, he bets \$4194304; if he loses that, he bets \$8388608; if he loses that, he bets \$16777216; if he loses that, he bets \$33554432; if he loses that, he bets \$67108864; if he loses that, he bets \$134217728; if he loses that, he bets \$268435456; if he loses that, he bets \$536870912; if he loses that, he bets \$1073741824; if he loses that, he bets \$2147483648; if he loses that, he bets \$4294967296; if he loses that, he bets \$8589934592; if he loses that, he bets \$17179869184; if he loses that, he bets \$34359738368; if he loses that, he bets \$68719476736; if he loses that, he bets \$137438953472; if he loses that, he bets \$274877906944; if he loses that, he bets \$549755813888; if he loses that, he bets \$1099511627776; if he loses that, he bets \$2199023255552; if he loses that, he bets \$4398046511104; if he loses that, he bets \$8796093022208; if he loses that, he bets \$17592186044416; if he loses that, he bets \$35184372088832; if he loses that, he bets \$70368744177664; if he loses that, he bets \$140737488355328; if he loses that, he bets \$281474976710656; if he loses that, he bets \$562949953421312; if he loses that, he bets \$1125899906842624; if he loses that, he bets \$2251799813685248; if he loses that, he bets \$4503599627370496; if he loses that, he bets \$9007199254740992; if he loses that, he bets \$18014398509481984; if he loses that, he bets \$36028797018963968; if he loses that, he bets \$72057594037927936; if he loses that, he bets \$144115188075855872; if he loses that, he bets \$288230376151711744; if he loses that, he bets \$576460752303423488; if he loses that, he bets \$1152921504606846976; if he loses that, he bets \$2305843009213693952; if he loses that, he bets \$4611686018427387904; if he loses that, he bets \$9223372036854775808; if he loses that, he bets \$18446744073709551616; if he loses that, he bets \$36893488147419103232; if he loses that, he bets \$73786976294838206464; if he loses that, he bets \$147573952589676412928; if he loses that, he bets \$295147905179352825856; if he loses that, he bets \$590295810358705651712; if he loses that, he bets \$1180591620717411303424; if he loses that, he bets \$2361183241434822606848; if he loses that, he bets \$4722366482869645213696; if he loses that, he bets \$9444732965739290427392; if he loses that, he bets \$18889465931478580854784; if he loses that, he bets \$37778931862957161709568; if he loses that, he bets \$75557863725914323419136; if he loses that, he bets \$151115727451828646838272; if he loses that, he bets \$302231454903657293676544; if he loses that, he bets \$604462909807314587353088; if he loses that, he bets \$1208925819614629174706176; if he loses that, he bets \$2417851639229258349412352; if he loses that, he bets \$4835703278458516698824704; if he loses that, he bets \$9671406556917033397649408; if he loses that, he bets \$19342813113834066795298816; if he loses that, he bets \$38685626227668133590597632; if he loses that, he bets \$77371252455336267181195264; if he loses that, he bets \$154742504910672534362390528; if he loses that, he bets \$309485009821345068724781056; if he loses that, he bets \$618970019642690137449562112; if he loses that, he bets \$1237940039285380274899124224; if he loses that, he bets \$2475880078570760549798248448; if he loses that, he bets \$4951760157141521099596488896; if he loses that, he bets \$9903520314283042199192977792; if he loses that, he bets \$19807040628566084398385955584; if he loses that, he bets \$39614081257132168796771911168; if he loses that, he bets \$79228162514264337593543822336; if he loses that, he bets \$158456325028528675187087644672; if he loses that, he bets \$316912650057057350374175289344; if he loses that, he bets \$633825300114114700748350578688; if he loses that, he bets \$1267650600228229401496701157376; if he loses that, he bets \$2535301200456458802993402314752; if he loses that, he bets \$5070602400912917605986804629504; if he loses that, he bets \$10141204801825835211973609259008; if he loses that, he bets \$20282409603651670423947218518016; if he loses that, he bets \$40564819207303340847894437036032; if he loses that, he bets \$81129638414606681695788874072064; if he loses that, he bets \$162259276829213363391577748144128; if he loses that, he bets \$324518553658426726783155496288256; if he loses that, he bets \$649037107316853453566310992576512; 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if he loses that, he bets \$44171176618982996177276758468568888888888915840047111151111044576; if he loses that, he bets \$8834235323796